(iii) In order to offer a stable price regime, the Government has decided to fix the offer price of export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks, and to announce the prices 45 days in advance before the commencement of the concerned quarter.

(iv) WTO compatible post-delivery and related expenses are being allowed to the exporters.

Diversion of Rice by NCCF

251. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice etc. are released by the National Consumer Co-operative Federation (NCCF) for export;

(b) if so, the quantity of rice released in favour of NCCF during the last three years;

(c) the price at which rice is given to NCCF and how does that rate compare with the open market;

(d) whether instances have come to Government's notice where rice released for export has been diverted to the open market at higher rate;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government against the NCCF in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) NCCF has been nominated by the Government of India as one of the agencies for export of FCI wheat & rice. As per the policy of the Government, the agencies nominated can undertake export either themselves or through their associate exporters having recognized Export House status.

(b) The quantity of rice released for export by FCI to NCCF during the last two years and up to October 2002 are as under:—

2000-01	800 MTN
2001-02	40645 MTN
2002-03 (up to Oct.'02)	218519 MTN

(c) The NCCF has informed that the issue prices of rice for export are decided by the FCI from time to time according to the norms prescribed.

(d) and (e) According to the information furnished by the NCCF, their associate shipper namely M/s. City Shoes, New Delhi had lifted a total quantity of 12500 MTN of Indian non-Basmati raw rice for export to Oman and Dubai, during the period from March 2002 to July 2002, from different FCI godowns at Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat. As per the policy of FCI, the exporters are required to upgrade the stocks from 25% broken to 5% broken before export. Out of 12,500 MTN of rice lifted by the NCCF from FCI, 2000 MTs of rice is still to be exported. Thus, against the stocks of 10,500 MTN of rice, 8806 MTN was required be exported after up-gradation and the balance quantity of broken rice of 1694 MTN, was to be disposed locally as per the FCI guidelines. The associate shipper namely M/s. City Shoes had submitted export documents for 6900 MTN only. The documents for balance quantity are yet to be received by the NCCF. The documents submitted by M/s. City Shoes are under scrutiny by the NCCF. The NCCF has further informed that the associate shipper has used its official stationery unauthorisedly, which has been found by them to have been misused against the interest of the NCCF. The NCCF has intimated that they have since filed FIR with the Delhi Police on 30.10.2002 and 1.11.2002 against the proprietor of M/s. City Shoes for his ulterior motive of cheating and fraud against the NCCF.

(f) The NCCF is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to decide about their business and other administrative matters. The NCCF has informed that they have their own Vigilance Section to look into the matter. The NCCF has informed that the entire matter is being investigated by them with a view to taking further necessary action as deemed necessary.